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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/63/648/Add.5)]

63/269. Information and communications technology, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information and communications technology, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters"[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for a global operational framework to enable the United Nations to respond effectively to emergency situations that may impair operations of critical elements of its information and communications technology infrastructure and facilities;

3. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take a unified approach to disaster recovery and business continuity, utilizing all available infrastructure, in order to achieve economies of scale and cost efficiencies;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations uses enterprise data centres rather than local data centres as far as possible;

5. *Notes with concern* the continued deficiencies in the planning and management of the project;

6. *Regrets* that the proposal of the Secretary-General did not provide the necessary assurances that its implementation would sufficiently mitigate risks, including risks related to the physical security of data, during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn at Headquarters;

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[1] A/63/743.

[2] A/63/774.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when utilizing the services of the International Computing Centre, to ensure compliance with all regulations and rules regarding procurement, in order to guarantee the cost-effectiveness of the services provided by the Centre;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, expressed in section IV, paragraph 7, of its resolution 63/262, to ensure that the leased space is fully utilized if it is not possible to terminate the lease;

10. *Notes with concern* that the delays caused by the lack of reliable disaster recovery and business continuity services for Headquarters may lead to further cost escalation, including in respect of the capital master plan, and risk to data;

11. *Decides* that any further proposal for risk mitigation measures to protect data and the information and communications systems of the Secretariat during the construction work of the capital master plan, if necessary, shall be reported in the context of the annual progress report on the capital master plan;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to absorb 5,096,880 United States dollars within the approved budget of the capital master plan, and decides that 2,031,860 dollars shall be financed from the resources to be approved for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 in order to pursue the most reliable and cost-effective risk mitigation measures during the migration of the primary data centre to the North Lawn;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to carry out a classification of critical/non-critical systems of the Secretariat and to provide to the General Assembly an inventory of systems classified according to their degree of criticality at the time of its consideration of the proposal for a permanent secondary data centre;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the level of protection proposed has been subject to a thorough cost-benefit analysis;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of section IV of resolution 63/262, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly no later than at the main part of its sixty-fifth session a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, including a permanent solution for Headquarters.

79th plenary meeting
7 April 2009